United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1644
13 May 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General discusses Rwanda situation with Special Representative Booh-Booh and other officials in Paris; says Security Council should substantially enlarge UNAMIR for humanitarian purposes.

+ IAEA to send team to inspect reprocessing plant in Democratic People's Republic of Korea; parties to hold discussions on Experimental Nuclear Power Plant at later date.

+ Sri Lanka tells Committee on Information that DPI should explain, not conceal, factors hindering United Nations activities; Uruguay calls for more information on social development and humanitarian affairs.

+ World Health Assembly, concluding forty-seventh session in Geneva, achieves unprecedented consensus in resolution on health conditions in occupied Arab territories.

* * *

Continuing his stay in Paris, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today held a working meeting on the situation in Rwanda, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting was attended by Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Rwanda; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; and Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations.

The Secretary-General underlined the importance of an early cease-fire in Rwanda and implementation of the Arusha Accord, which remained the basis for the peace process. Meanwhile, he had recommended that the Security Council substantially enlarge the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to meet the need for urgent humanitarian action in the country. He welcomed the proposed establishment of protected zones for displaced persons close to Rwanda's borders, but said an equal effort was needed to meet humanitarian needs in the interior. The Secretary-General asked Special Representative Booh-Booh to return to Kigali, and assured him of his full confidence and support.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

* * *

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will send a team to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea within days to carry out inspection activities which the Agency was not allowed to undertake at a reprocessing plant last March. The team will also perform such tasks as servicing cameras and checking seals at the plant and at the Experimental Nuclear Power Plant. In addition, it will seek to verify information provided by the People's Republic that there is still an opportunity to select and secure fuel rods for measurements later in the year.

The People's Republic has agreed to hold working level discussions with the IAEA on technical matters related to the core discharge at the Experimental Nuclear Power Plant. However, the time and place for such discussions have yet to be agreed.

* * *

The Department of Public Information (DPI) should explain rather than conceal factors which hamper the success of United Nations activities, the representative of Sri Lanka told the Committee on Information today as it continued its general debate. He said the Organization's role must be accurately portrayed by the media and called for a closer working relationship between the DPI and New York-based correspondents.

Uruguay expressed concern that excessive focus was being given to peace-keeping operations, at the expense of such areas as social development and humanitarian affairs. It called for more information on forthcoming United Nations events, such as the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September and the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen next year.

Yesterday, representatives discussed the impact of integrating United Nations field offices with information centres. Ukraine said a unified approach to the centres was the most cost effective way to integrate information activities within the United Nations system. The Indian representative praised the DPI for having kept up with technological changes, citing the high quality of the United Nations Radio Bulletin Board. He suggested that the DPI commercialize the Bulletin Board by asking users to pay for the service.

* * *

The World Health Assembly yesterday concluded its forty-seventh session in Geneva by adopting by consensus a resolution on health conditions in the occupied Arab territories. The Assembly -- the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO) -- had included that topic on its agenda for every session since 1975, leading to contentious debates and resolutions adopted amid strong opposition from some States. Yesterday's consensus was said to

(more)

have been facilitated by the signing last year of the Declaration of Principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and by the recent accord on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The resolution recognized the need for extra health assistance for the Arab populations in the occupied territories. It affirmed that transferring responsibility for health to the Palestinian people would lead to improvements in their health system. During its session, the Assembly also restored South Africa's membership rights, which had been suspended for 30 years because of the country's system of apartheid.

* *** *